

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR



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Week of April 5th - 11th



COMMUNITY ALERT

Free Fishing Clinic

Saturday

April 11th, 2015
9:00am-3:00pm

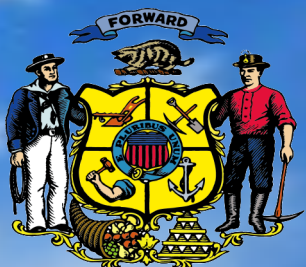
At these locations:

Brown Deer Park
Greenfield Park
Humboldt Park
Wilson Park
Washington Park -
Wheelchair Access

Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading the legislative update. I hope you find the information provided here useful.

As Always,
I'm Here to
Serve

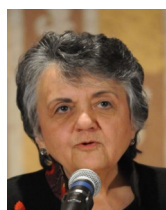


Budget Listening Session To Be Held April 11th

To better accommodate the needs of constituents, I am holding a listening session on Governor Walker's proposed 2015-17 budget. With the Republican controlled leadership of the Joint Finance Committee only agreeing to host four public hearings for the entire state, this hearing will provide citizens an opportunity for public input. The hearing will be held tomorrow, Saturday, April 11 at Brentwood Church of Christ, 6425 N. 60th St., from 3:00pm - 6:00pm. Many have raised concerns regarding such issues as SeniorCare, Family Care, IRIS, Long-term Health Care, and Medicare Part D. We know that every possible aspect of the state's operations can be impacted. However, people may not realize the number of non-fiscal policy items that Governor Walker has erroneously placed in the budget. These policy issues include efforts to change the assignment of benefits for child support, change the county, regional, and city assessment process, technical college tuition freezes for high-demand fields, the creation of a charter school oversight board, and policy changes to worker's compensation. Whatever your concerns, I hope you will join me on Saturday to make your voice heard on a budget that will have long-lasting consequences for years to come.



Court's 126 Year-Old Seniority Rule Amended



For the past 126 years, the Chief Justice position has gone to the most senior member of the State Supreme Court. Justice Shirley Abrahamson has been in the lead position since 1996; however a new amendment approved by voters this past Tuesday allows the seven justices to decide the chief. Chief Justice Abrahamson feels that the new amendment will negatively impact the proceedings of the court, as a new vote would have to take place every two years to elect a new justice. And by removing seniority from the selection process it is very possible an inexperienced Justice could be placed into a role they are not prepared to assume. Abrahamson filed a request for a temporary restraining order that would block the amendment on Wednesday, saying that the amendment should not take effect until the end of her term in 2019. However a federal judge denied her request on Thursday. Judge James Peterson said Abrahamson does not face the risk of irreparable injury since the constitutional amendment she's seeking to block won't take effect until at least April 29th.



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the legislative process,
or want to give back to
the community?**

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

Contact Us!

**We Enjoy Hearing
From You!**



April is Financial Literacy Month

April is National Financial Literacy Month. It is a national effort to highlight the importance of understanding and developing a plan to make your money work for you. The goal is to teach Americans how to establish and maintain healthy financial habits. Wisconsin is fully committed to educating its citizens on financial literacy. In fact, the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) has an entire division devoted to it. The Office of Financial Literacy promotes financial literacy as a life skill and provides information to the public on matters of personal finance and investor protection. Examples of the valuable information you will find on the site includes developing spending plans, managing debt or credit, saving and investing, and knowing your rights as a consumer. No matter how large or small your finances, you will benefit from programs such as the Financial Wellness Checklist. For more information, please visit the DFI website at www.wdfi.org.



Prevailing Wage: The Next Big Battle



A prevailing wage, which is administrated by the Dept. of Workforce Development, is defined as the hourly wage, benefits, and overtime paid to laborers employed on the site of certain projects of public works in Wisconsin. We have had prevailing wage laws on the books in our state since the 1930's and there are 32 states which have various requirements for wage laws. However, Wisconsin may be joining the short list of states that are attempting to repeal these laws. Currently there are three separate prevailing wage laws in the state of Wisconsin: one that applies to public works projects of which a state agency is a part, another that applies to public works projects undertaken by local governments and another that applies to projects under a contract based bids in which the state is a party. Recently, Senator Leah Vukmir introduced Senate Bill 49, which aims to eliminate the state, local, and highway prevailing wage laws. Whether you line up with those who believe the law hurts the local construction industry or support the belief that you get better quality workers and fairer wages for workers, be assured that this is going to be a hot topic.

Wise Words of the Week!

"Change will not come, if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." - President Obama